

### Abstract

Described is a system and mechanism by which a client computer may issue a conventional request for a resource on the Web. A response to that request is annotated with information indicating that metadata is available for the resource.

- 5 Specifically, a special tag or instruction may be included in the response document that indicates the existence and location of a discovery document containing metadata about the resource. The client computer may then retrieve the metadata from the location identified in the response. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention enables a lightweight mechanism for discovering metadata about a resource
- 10 without a need for extensive reprogramming of the resource or the addition of other resources specifically to indicate that metadata may exist for the resource.

